



COMMUNITY NEWS

District 1

Vol. 59 July 2009, Scottsdale Police Department District I Station 7601 E. McKellips RD. Scottsdale, AZ 85257 (480) 312-0275



Vacation Safety Tips:

Don't leave home without them

Before You Leave

- Depending on the length and location of your vacation, pack sufficient medicines to meet any specific needs of your family members. Taking a simple first aid kit with you is a good idea.
- Inform your trusted relatives or friends of your itinerary so you can be contacted in case of an emergency. Avoid discussing your absence in public.
- If your house will be vacant, you may want to stop all deliveries. An accumulation of newspapers and mail is an open invitation to burglars. A better option is to have a trusted relative or neighbor check your home regularly and pick up your papers and mail. Ask a neighbor to park in your driveway. If you will be gone an extended time, make sure someone takes care of your lawn.
- Lock all doors and windows behind you when you leave your home. Do not leave keys hidden outside your residence. Use timers to turn on some lights when you are gone. Hook up a timer to a radio set on a talk radio station. Turn your phone ringer down or off so a burglary can't hear the phone going unanswered inside your home.
- Unplug unused electrical appliances, especially coffee pots that store water in them. Unplug your garage door opener and put a padlock through the door track to prevent opening.
- Clean out your wallet/purse before you go. Take only essential credit cards. Plan to use credit cards or traveler's checks instead of cash whenever possible.

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From The Desk Of Commander Scott Popp

The internet has had a positive effect on all our lives. We can reach out to long lost friends and relatives, buy things that we wouldn't otherwise have access to, and sell things to people all over the world. Unfortunately, criminals also use the internet to their advantage.

Recently, a Scottsdale Police Detective arrested a burglar who was particularly adept at burglarizing homes. The Detective noticed that all the victims sold items on the internet classified advertising website, "Craig's List."

The burglar would call the resident and make an appointment to meet them to at their home to see the item being sold. They would wait for phrases such as "I work until 5:00 pm, so I can meet you after that." Another phrase would be, "no one is home this weekend, so we can meet on Monday." As a result, the burglar knew exactly when he could safely break into the home.

If you choose to sell items on such websites, please don't give your schedule to potential callers. If at all possible, meet the prospective buyer at a neutral location away from your home. Talk to your children as well, and make sure they understand that they should never give out any personal information (to include the family schedule) to people they don't know.

Have a safe summer.

Commander Scott Popp
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Vacation Safety Tips

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If you are flying

- Pack things of value and great necessity such as medicine and jewelry in a carry-on bag that will stay with you.
- Keep track of your baggage until you are checked in for your flight and always watch your carry-on baggage as it goes through security.

Staying in a hotel/motel

- Request a room between the third and seventh floors – low enough for fire department ladders to reach and too high for burglars to reach from the outside.
- We recommend that the first thing you do after you check in is to familiarize yourself and your family with the exit/evacuation procedures.
- Never leave valuables in your room. Check with the hotel about the safekeeping of your valuables that you do not want to carry with you. To keep your hotel room secure, use the security devices provided. Do not leave a patio door open if you will not be in the room.

Renting a vehicle

- It is important to know the features of the vehicle, and be sure to secure the vehicle when you park it.
- Park in well-lit areas and travel major streets if possible.
- Do not leave valuables in your vehicle.
- Avoid leaving maps and tour guides on the seats or dashboard as they indicate that you are a tourist.

As you vacation

- Stick together with your family/group and make sure everyone knows where you are staying and how to contact the police in an emergency.
- Agree on a meeting place and time if somehow you become separated.
- Avoid displaying/flashing cash, expensive jewelry, camera, purses, and other items that draw attention to you.
- Know the areas you are going to and avoid “bad” neighborhoods and other unsafe places. Carry your purse close to your body, in front of you. If you carry a purse on a strap over a shoulder, keep a hand on it just in case someone tries to cut the strap from behind. Keep your wallet in an inside pocket, not in your back/hip pocket.

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Vacation Safety Tips *(Continued)*

You may call the Scottsdale Police Department at 480-312-5000 and request a “vacation watch” while you are gone. This lets the Department know you are not home and to watch for unusual activity at your residence. As time permits, your beat officers will drive by your residence and check on it. In most cases, a good neighbor keeping an eye on your home is more effective.

For more information on crime prevention or additional opportunities to get involved in YOUR community contact Crime Prevention Officer Jennifer Wattier at 480-312-0275, email jwattier@scottsdaleaz.gov, or District 1 Police Aide Sherry Cross at 480-312-2537, email: scross@scottsdaleaz.gov.

Upcoming Events:

34th Annual Mighty Mud Mania – Friday July 17, 2009 from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. The annual tradition returns to Chaparral Park (5401 N. Hayden Road in Scottsdale). There are events for children ages 1 to 17 including a mud obstacle course, mudpits and a mudville town for little ones. Children must have a signed parental permission slip before entering Mighty Mud Mania. To download a permission slip or to get more information, please go to:

www.scottsdaleaz.gov/MightyMudMania.asp

Drug Disposal – Friday, July 17, 2009 from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. New this year at Mighty Mud Mania (Chaparral Park, 5401 N. Hayden Road), the Scottsdale Police Department will present a drug disposal and destruction. Bring your old medications so they can be destroyed in an environmentally safe manner. This keeps drugs out of the hands of children and illegitimate users. For more information, please contact Officer Jennifer Wattier at 480-312-0275 or jwattier@ScottsdaleAZ.gov

Public Safety Community Contact Numbers and E-mail Links

- **Scottsdale Police Non-Emergency** 480-312-5000
- **Scottsdale Fire Department** 480-312-8000
- **SPD Drug Enforcement Hotline** - Suspected illegal activity, 480-312-TIPS (Hot lines are not monitored)
- **SPD Traffic Enforcement Hotline** - chronic traffic problems, 480-312-CARS
- **Speed Awareness Program** – speeding concerns on residential streets (25 MPH), 480-312-7787
- **Code Enforcement** 480-312-2546
- **Child Safety Seat Installation** 480-312-BABY
- **CPR/First Aid Classes** 480-312-1817